

THE
CHARACTER

OF A

Disbanded Courtier.

To-day is so like Yesterday, it cheats;
We take the lying Sister for the same.

Young's Night Thoughts.



L O N D O N:

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C H A R A C T E R
O F A

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We take the lying Sister for the same.

Young's Night Thoughts.

E was born with an aspiring Mind,
H by much too high flown for his
Quality and his Estate.

His dexterity in doing ill, made him
thought capable of performing admirably well,
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if ever he came to be employed and entrusted. He was preferred for Ability, to high Degrees of Honour and Office ; admitted into the Cabinet Councils ; made acquainted with all the secret Wheels (and could tell how many Cogs there were in each Wheel) upon which the great Engine of State was turned, and kept in Motion ; by the Favour of his Prince, he acquired sufficient Riches to support the Splendor of a new raised Family.

His Glory was so eminently conspicuous, that there were but few Persons below the Crown seemed above him ; and nothing was wanting to render his Felicity as lasting as Nature intended his Life, but a Heart that knew how to be grateful to a most *Munificent Benefactor*. He thought all the Favours and Honours he enjoyed were less than the Reward of his Merit : That thought puffed him with Pride ; such a sort of Pride, as is commonly attended with an irrecoverable fall, (which was his Fortune) and at his fall (like that of his Predecessor) might very well have been proclaimed : *Woe to you, the Inhabitants*

bitants of the Earth, for the Devil is come down among you.

Open Revenge against his Sovereign, being too dangerous to attempt, he presently resolves upon secret: He exposes all the Weaknesses and Infirmities of the Court (from which no Court is free) and where he can find no real faults, he feigns imaginary ones, and passes them off for current. By this new and false Optick, he represents every molehill of mistake in the publick Administration, for a Mountain as tall as Teneriff, and as dangerous as the Top of *Ætna*; nay, he multiplies and magnifies the very Miscarriages, which were the Effect of his own evil Council. He amuses the free'st Nation in the Universe with wild Humours, and extravagant apprehensions of Slavery, under the Government of a *Prince*, who, in Acts of Favour, Mercy, and Clemency, has exceeded all his predecessors. He fills the Heads of the People full with whimsical Fears of fantastick Devils (*Chimera's* which only his Malice has raised) on purpose to frighten them out of their *Loyalty* and their Wits, and pre-

pare and ripen them for Bedlam, or for Rebellion. He makes the pretences of *Liberty*, the Stirrup to get up, and Religion, the Steed he rides, in Pursuit of his monstrous Designs.

With these Pretences he cheats the Innocent, and, promising to open their Eyes, serves them as the Apostate Angel did our Parents in Paradise, only blows into them the Dust of Disobedience, and robs them of those Jewels he pretends to bestow, viz. *Liberty* and *Religion*; which are both so much talked of, and both so little understood.

Being a Gentleman of little or no *Religion* himself, he seems, for all that, to espouse every Division and Sub-division of it; every Faction and Person who are bold enough to stand stiff in Opposition against the well settled Government. What avails it, that he is in his own Nature a frugal Man? He keeps *open House* for Entertainment of all such State Malecontents, without Consideration either of Qualities or Qualifications: And what is he the better for being temperate himself,

self, so long as he accompanies and carouses, and contracts Intimacy and Amity with the lewdest Debauchees, that he thinks will help to forward his private Intrigues? He becomes all things to all Men in the very worst of Senses; perverting the Design of *St. Paul*, that he may, at least, delude some to be as bad as himself.

Having lost his Honour with his Prince, and Reputation with the best of Men, he cringes, creeps and sneaks to the lowest and basest of the People, to procure himself among them an empty, vain-glorious, and undeserved Name, the *Patriot* of his Country. And, lastly, hoping to be made the *little Head* of the *great Rabble*, he persuades them to believe, that they are all betrayed; encourages them to strike home against the Enemies of the King and Kingdom (pointing at the faithfullest and most *affectionate* Servants to both) well knowing that the mighty Fabrick can never be shaken, till its main Pillars and Supporters are by *Cunning and sly Stratagem*, either destroyed or undermined

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By this may appear the Weakness of that modern Piece of State Policy, *Oblige your Enemies, your Friends you are sure of already*; and the transcendent Wisdom of Solomon's Advice, *Let thy own Friend, and thy Father's Friend, never be forsaken.*

Such was the Character of a disbanded Courtier in the Year 1681. To which I will subjoin an Event (*least it should be forgotten*) which happened in the Year 1760.

In that Year a Prince came to the Throne who is endowed with all the Requisites, both of Body and Mind, to attract the Eyes and win the Hearts of his Subjects: He came to it by Hereditary Right; but received it like an Elective Prince, with the unanimous Voice and Affection of every individual Subject.

A brave and generous Prince could not see all Party Distinction cease, and so favourable an Opportunity to unite a divided People, without embracing it. Justice and Gratitude (if I may be allowed the Expression) dictated
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to his Majesty so to do ; and from that Instant it has appeared, that his Majesty was determined to employ, indiscriminately, Men (without Regard to Party Distinction) of Probity and Worth, in the great Offices of State : And, notwithstanding a Faction may be formed to destroy a Measure so just and equitable, it cannot be doubted, but the deluded and mistaken Part of the Kingdom will soon know how to apply to themselves the Artifices made use of in the Portrait of a disbanded Courtier, delineated above ; and not become the Dupes of a Faction that mean only to fish for themselves with the *prostitutive Baits of Regard to Religion, to Liberty, and Love to their Country.*

The sensible Author of the Considerations on the German War, has (as he informs the Reader) from a fair and accurate Calculation, found, that a Ship of five Hundred Tons, loaded with solid Gold, would not refund us the Money that has been paid in Subsidies, and the Support of our Troops on the Continent, during the late War : The War has subsisted two Years since that Calculation was
made ;

made; and it is very well known, that during the last Year that this incredible Expence was supported in all Parts of the Globe, twenty Guineas was frequently given for a single Recruit ; and ten and twelve Guineas was the common Sum offered by recruiting Officers. Nor were Men to be got, even at that immense Price ; and if they could, where is the Man, that will be hardy enough to say, that this Nation under so heavy a Debt, could support it ? I therefore appeal to common sense, whether any Peace almost was not to be coveted, under such Circumstances, and what Reason there is for the false Assertions continually thrown out ; calling it, an *ignominious and dishonourable Peace*.

All dispassionate People consider the Peace to be a good one ; and all disinterested and true Lovers of their Country, would have accepted one on Terms less advantageous to this Nation ; not to mention that universal Benevolence and Humanity that possesses the Hearts of those whose understanding is sufficiently opened to consider themselves as Citizens of the whole World, and rejoice to
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see a stop put to the effusion of human Blood ; under this consideration, what must those People be, who, with false and selfish pretences, are wickedly stirring up dissention and dissatisfaction to the State in general, and against one *Person* in particular, who has been instrumental in bringing about an event so consistent with humanity to all Mankind, and so necessary and beneficial to the Trade and Felicity of this happy Island ; for so it is, and so I doubt not it will continue ; notwithstanding these inflammatory *Methodistical State Bawlers*, who would make the simple Multitude believe, that neither their Persons or Properties are to be trusted in any other Hands than their own.

I cannot shew how easily the commonalty of the People are led into prejudice and absurdity, better than by finishing this Paper with a Story told in one published last Saturday, under the title of *A North Briton Singular and Extraordinary* ; the Story is a good one, and the Author I am persuaded will excuse my endeavouring to extend it.

C

After

“After evening Service, at a Country Church in *Cornwall*, the People, as is usual, were divided into little Societies, in different Parts of the Church-Yard, many of whom expressed themselves very warmly against the Jews ; when one amongst them, of a *superior Genius* to the Commonalty, presently spread a Report through the Church-Yard, that *Moses* and *Aaron* were Jews ; and no sooner had this Report *gained belief*, than they united their whole Strength, forced open the Church Doors, pulled down *Moses* and *Aaron*, and with them the Ten Commandments, and consumed them to ashes in an Instant, to the general Satisfaction of the whole Village : The consequence was, that the very People, who had so simply been led into this extravagant resentment to the Portraits of *Moses* and *Aaron*, had a *Tax levied* on them the next Year, for repairing and beautifying the Church, in which was included the replacing of the Ten Commandments, and the former suitable supporters. The Application is obvious ; for certain it is, that when the principal

cial People of the State are divided amongst themselves, it takes off all Attention to the public Welfare; and the middling and lowest Class of People, are those who feel its Consequence most."

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A Gentleman speaking of the Friendship and Sincerity of Courtiers in general, was led into Conversation on the Characters and Sincerity of two noble Brothers, eminent for their fine Parts and shining Abilities; when it was urged by one of the Company, that the younger was endowed with the greatest Powers: It may be so, replied the other, *but I had rather have the eldest for my Enemy, than the youngest for my Friend.* How just the Remark is, I will not take upon me to say: How great the Compliment is to one, at the Expence of the other, is too obvious to point out.

POSTSCRIPT.

A Gentleman speaking of the friendship and sincerity of Countess in general, was led into conversation on the character and sincerity of two noble Brothers, eminent for their fine Parts and shining Abilities; when it was said by one of the Company, that the young man was endowed with the greatest Powers: It may be so, replied the other, but I had rather have the least for my Enemy, than the greatest for my Friend. I now just the Remark is, I will not take upon me to say: How great the Compliment is to one, at the Expense of the other, is too obvious to point out.

